



JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

Post Office Box 1629
Charleston, West Virginia 25326-1629
(304) 558-0169 • FAX (304) 558-0831

June 8, 2000

JIC Advisory Opinion 2000-25

Dear Judge :

Your recent letter to the Commission in which you seek an advisory opinion has been reviewed by the Commission. In your correspondence you stated that at the conclusion of your last political campaign you gave a friend all of your remaining large plastic political signs. He was going to use them for purposes of insulation and building repairs on his farms and lands. Your friend has now advised you that he wishes to give the signs to a candidate in the present general election so that the candidate may glue and affix his own campaign material over yours for the purpose of that candidate's use. Your friend has asked if you object to this. You asked in your request whether you should oppose this use of what you consider to be signs that you no longer own. You asked whether it would be a violation of the ethical constraints placed upon you as a senior status judge if your friend did as he proposes.

After reviewing your request it is the opinion of the Commission that you have already given your signs to your friend. However, if he proposes to give the material to another candidate there should be assurances that your name will be completely covered so that it will not be thought that you are engaging in the political campaign of another candidate. So long as your name is covered, the Commission can find no problem with the situation which you have raised.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "John W. Bennett", is written over a horizontal line.

John W. Bennett, Chairman

JWB:nb